



# ***Symposium on Superfund Cleanups: Engaging Brooklyn and Queens***



# ***Roadmap to Cleanup Three Hazardous Waste Superfund Sites In Your Community:***

***Wolff-Alport Chemical Company  
Newtown Creek  
Gowanus Canal***



## **Team Wolff-Alport Chemical Company**

Cecilia Echols, Community Involvement Coordinator

Thomas Mongelli, Project Manager

## **Team Newtown Creek**

Wanda Ayala, Community Involvement Coordinator

Caroline Kwan, Project Manager

Joseph Battipaglia, Project Manager

## **Team Gowanus Canal**

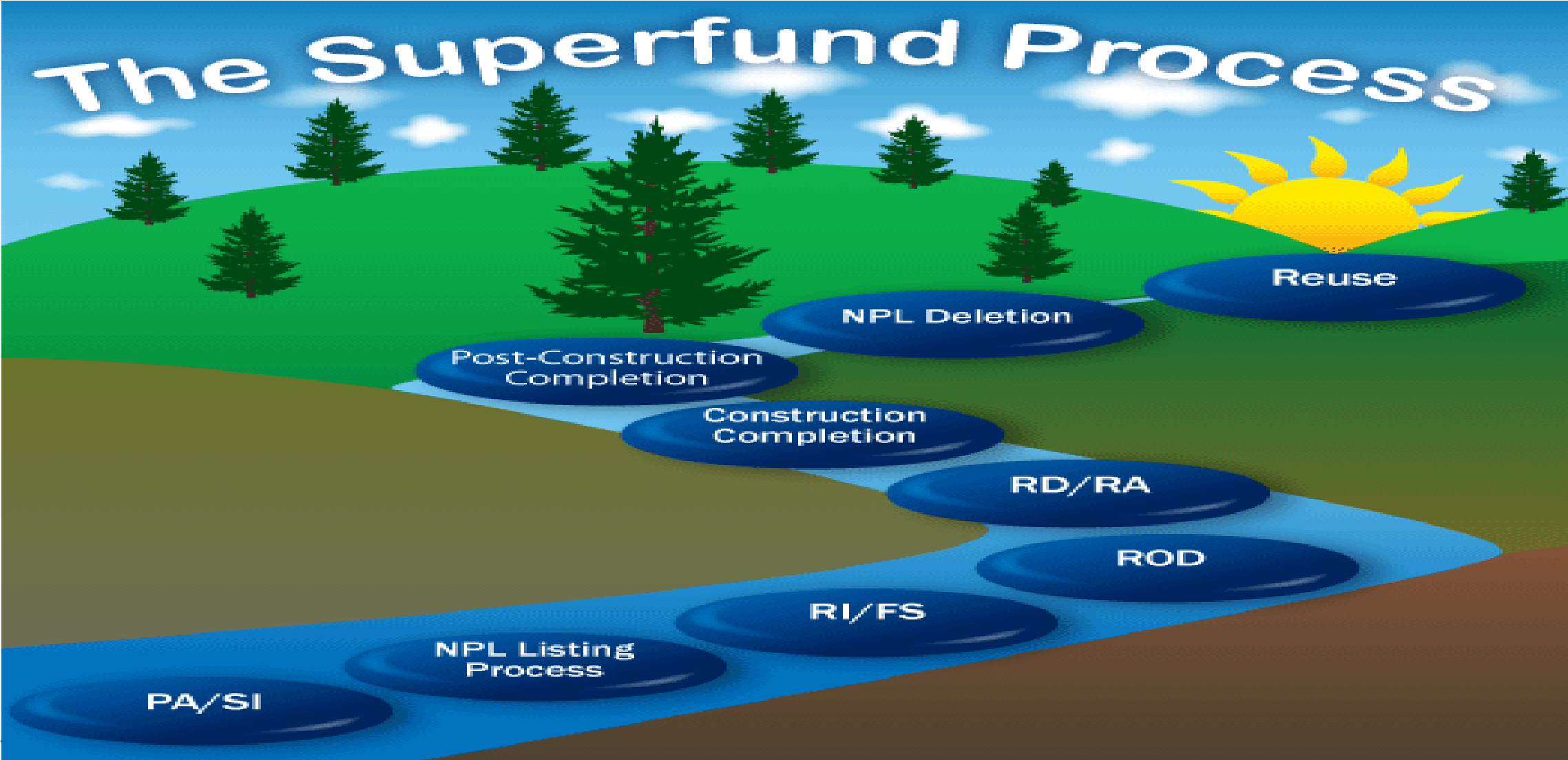
Natalie Loney, Community Involvement Coordinator

Christos Tsiamis, Project Manager



# Presenter

*Walter Mugdan, Regional Director  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division*





# Wolff-Alport Chemical Company Superfund Site Bushwick/Ridgewood







# Newtown Creek Superfund Site Greenpoint/Williamsburg/Long Island City/Maspeth





# Newtown Creek - Phase 1 Study

- Conducted from October 2011 to March 2013
- Objectives:
  - To characterize physical properties
  - To characterize chemical nature of surface water, air and sediment
- Phase 1 Field Activities:

## Surveys

- Shoreline characterization
- Bathymetric
- Geophysical/Aerial
- Habitat and wildlife
- Fish/Benthic community

## Sampling

- Surface Water
- Surface and subsurface sediment
- Air





# Newtown Creek - Phase 2 Study

- Began in May 2014 and scheduled to be completed in Spring 2015
- Objectives:
  - Fill Phase 1 Data Gaps
  - Estimate current chemical loading to the Creek

- Phase 2 Field Activities:

## Surveys

- Surface/Subsurface sediment sampling
- Surface water sampling
- Point source sampling
- Groundwater sampling

## Risk Assessment Support

- Wildlife/Habitat surveys
- Biota sampling
- Benthic community survey
- Caged bivalve study
- Sediment toxicity testing



# Gowanus Canal

## Red Hook/Carroll Gardens/Gowanus/Park Slope

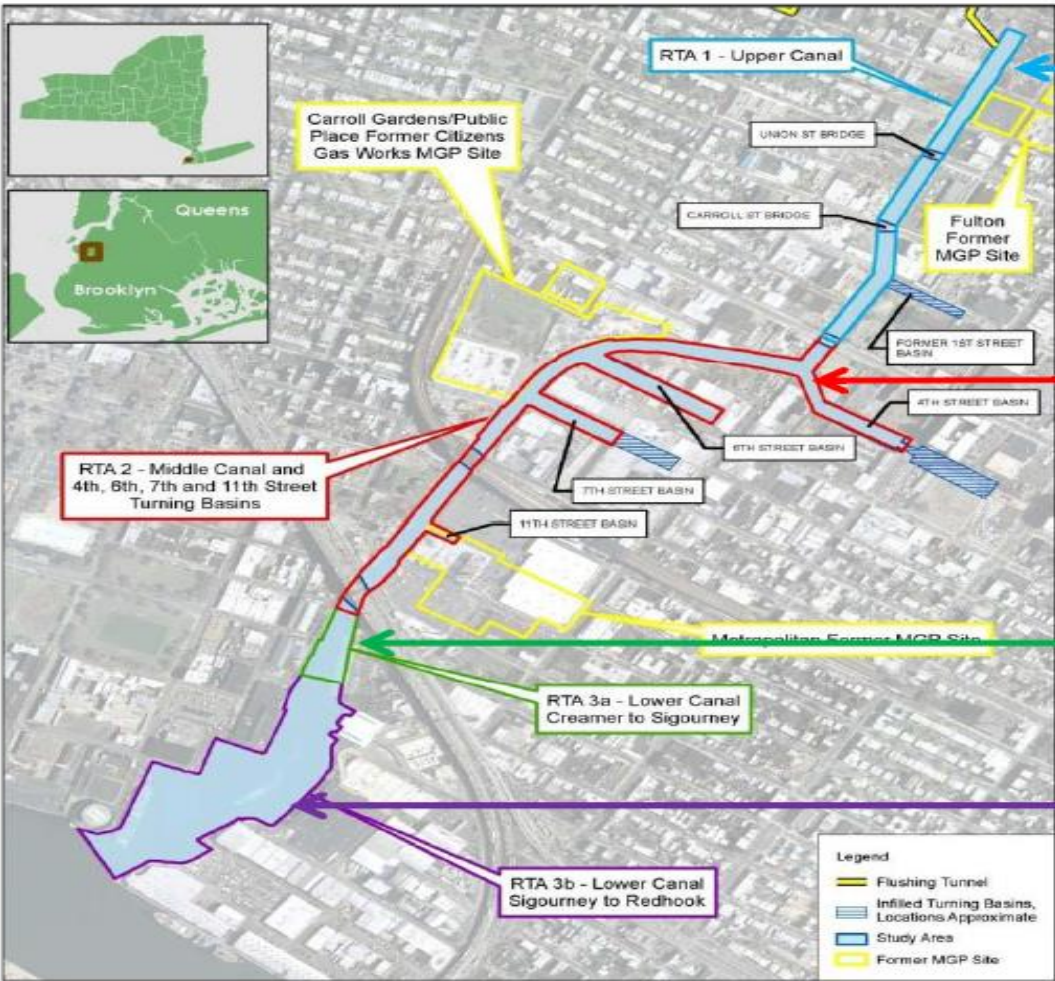
### Site Location



Gowanus Canal  
Project Area



# Remediation Target Areas (RTAs)



**RTA 1**  
**Upper Canal**  
*Intermediate level of contamination*

**RTA 2**  
**Middle Canal**  
*Highest level of contamination*

**RTA 3a**  
**Lower Canal**  
*Lowest level of contamination, shallower*

**RTA 3b**  
**Lower Canal**  
*Lowest level of contamination, deeper*





# What's in the Gowanus Canal Cleanup Plan?

- Removing contaminated sediment from the bottom of the canal by dredging
- Capping the dredged areas
- Combining sewer overflows controls
- Excavating the 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street Basins
- Cost - \$506 Million



# Presenter

Michael Sivak, Risk Assessor



# What is Superfund Risk Assessment?

A four-step process is utilized to assess site-related human health risks:

- Hazard Identification- What chemicals are present? Which chemicals are we most concerned with? What is being impacted? (Soil, Groundwater, Air, Surface Water, etc.)
- Exposure Assessment- Who is most likely to be exposed under both current and reasonably anticipated future land uses, if no cleanup is initiated?
- Toxicity Assessment- What adverse effects are associated with exposure to these chemicals? What amount of chemical should we be concerned with?
- Risk Characterization- What are the risks/hazards at the site? Are the risks above acceptable levels?





# Outreach, Assistance and Engagement



# Community Resources:

Social Media (Facebook; Twitter; Blog).....	Melissa Dimas
Superfund Job Training Initiative (Superfund JTI).....	Cecilia Echols
Technical Assistance Grant (TAG).....	Wanda Ayala
Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC).....	Wanda Ayala
EJ SCREEN.....	Natalie Loney
My Environment.....	Natalie Loney
Community Advisory Group (CAG).....	Natalie Loney



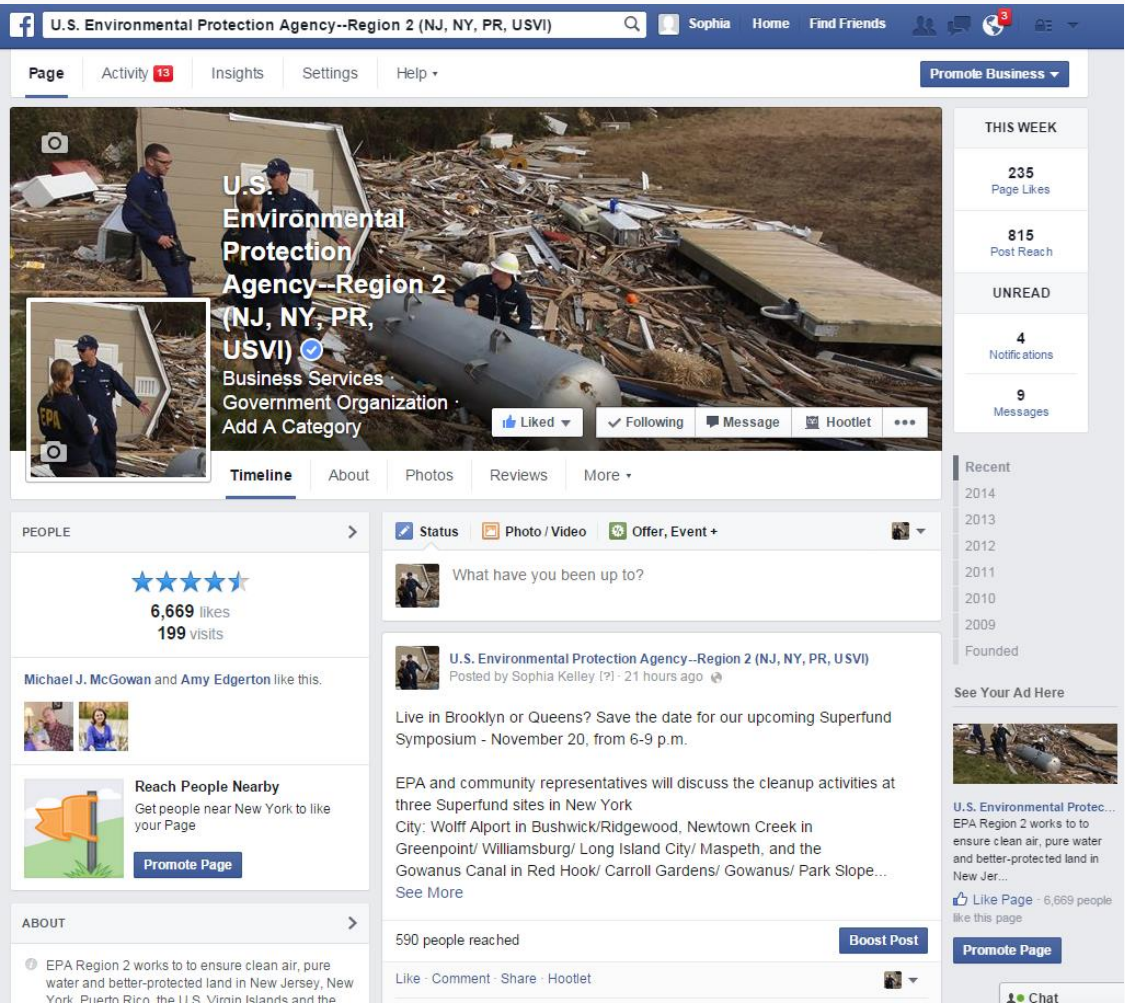
# Social Media in the Region:

Facebook:  
[facebook.com/eparegion2](https://facebook.com/eparegion2)

Twitter: [@eparegion2](https://twitter.com/eparegion2)

Greening the Apple Blog:  
[blog.epa.gov/greeningtheapple](http://blog.epa.gov/greeningtheapple)

Superfund Websites





## Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI)

- Is an environmental cleanup job readiness program that provides free training and employment opportunities for citizens living in communities affected by Superfund Sites
- It helps create partnerships and to address local workforce issues
- It offers various jobs, ie: Truck Drivers & Environmental Technicians
- It was completed at two sites: Onondaga Lake & Diamond Alkali (Passaic River) Superfund Sites



## Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)

- A TAG provides a \$50,000 grant to community groups so they can pay for technical advisors to interpret and explain technical reports, site conditions and EPA's proposed cleanup proposals and decisions at Superfund sites.
- Intended for local community members - group of individuals affected by the site (non profit). If you receive money from a Potentially Responsible Party, you are ineligible to receive a TAG.



# Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC)

- TASC Services:
  - Meeting Facilitation
  - Information Assistance
  - Community Education
  - Technical Expertise





## EJSCREEN

- Screening tool helps EPA recognize areas with potentially vulnerable populations that may:
  - Bear disproportionate environmental impacts and other significant environmental justice concerns.
  - Not be fairly represented in government decisions that could affect their communities

## MyEnvironment

- A search application that can be used to get a cross-section of environmental information based on the user's location.



# Community Advisory Group (CAG)



- CAG acts as a forum for dialogue
- Discusses and assesses information
- Disseminates information to the community
- Gathers information from the community and various sources
- Engages in problem-solving issues relating to the clean-up and the community
- Provides input to EPA and others



## Additional Community Resources:

TAGs, TASC, CAGs, Superfund JTI:  
[www.epa.gov/superfund/community/](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/)

EJ SCREEN: <http://gisint1.rtpnc.epa.gov/ejscreen/>

Where you live: [www.epa.gov/myenvironment](http://www.epa.gov/myenvironment)

Superfund websites:

[www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/wolff](http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/wolff)

[www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/newtowncreek](http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/newtowncreek)

[www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/gowanuscanal](http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/gowanuscanal)



## **Community Perspectives**

Phillip Musegaas, Newtown Creek CAG Member

Lizzie Olesker, Gowanus CAG Member



# Open Dialogue



*Thank you*

**EPA Region 2 Public Affairs Hotlines  
800-346-5009 and 877-251-4575**